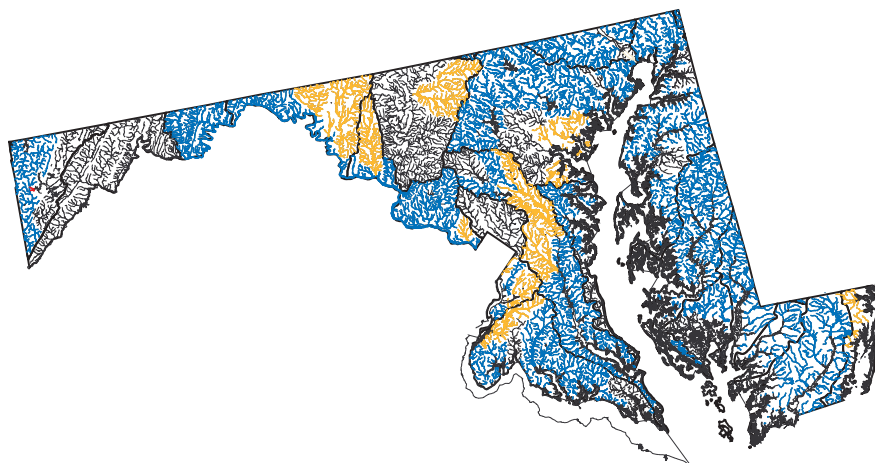


Maryland



— Fully Supporting
— Partially Supporting
— Not Supporting
— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

This map depicts overall use support status, a State-defined beneficial use.

For a copy of the Maryland 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Overall, Maryland's surface waters have good quality, but excess nutrients, suspended sediments, bacteria, toxic materials, or stream acidity impact some waters. The most serious water quality problem in Maryland is the continuing accumulation of nutrients in estuaries and lakes from agricultural runoff, urban runoff, natural non-point source runoff, and point source discharges. Excess nutrients stimulate algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen levels that adversely impact water supplies and aquatic life.

Sources of sediment include agricultural runoff, urban runoff, construction activities, natural erosion, dredging, forestry, and mining operations. In western Maryland, acidic waters from abandoned coal mines severely impact some streams. Agricultural runoff, urban runoff, natural runoff, and failing septic systems elevate bacteria concentrations and cause continuous shellfish harvesting restrictions in about 102 square miles of estuarine waters and cause temporary restrictions in another 71.1 square miles after major rainstorms.

Ground Water Quality

Maryland's ground water resource is of generally good quality. Localized problems include excess nutrients (nitrates) from fertilizers and septic systems; bacteria from septic systems and surface contamination; saline water intrusion aggravated by ground water withdrawals in the coastal plain; toxic compounds from septic tanks, landfills, and spills; petroleum products from leaking storage facilities; and acidic conditions and metals from abandoned coal mine drainage in western Maryland. Control efforts are limited to implementing agricultural best management practices and enforcing regulations for septic tanks, underground storage tanks, land disposal practices, and well construction.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Maryland manages nonpoint sources with individual programs for

each individual nonpoint source category. Urban runoff is addressed through stormwater and sediment control laws that require development projects to maintain predevelopment runoff patterns through implementation of best management practices (BMPs), such as detention ponds or vegetated swales. The Agricultural Water Quality Management Program supports many approaches, including Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans, implementation of BMPs, and education. The Agricultural Cost Share Program has provided State, and some Federal, funds to help offset the costs of implementing almost 8,000 agricultural BMPs since 1983.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

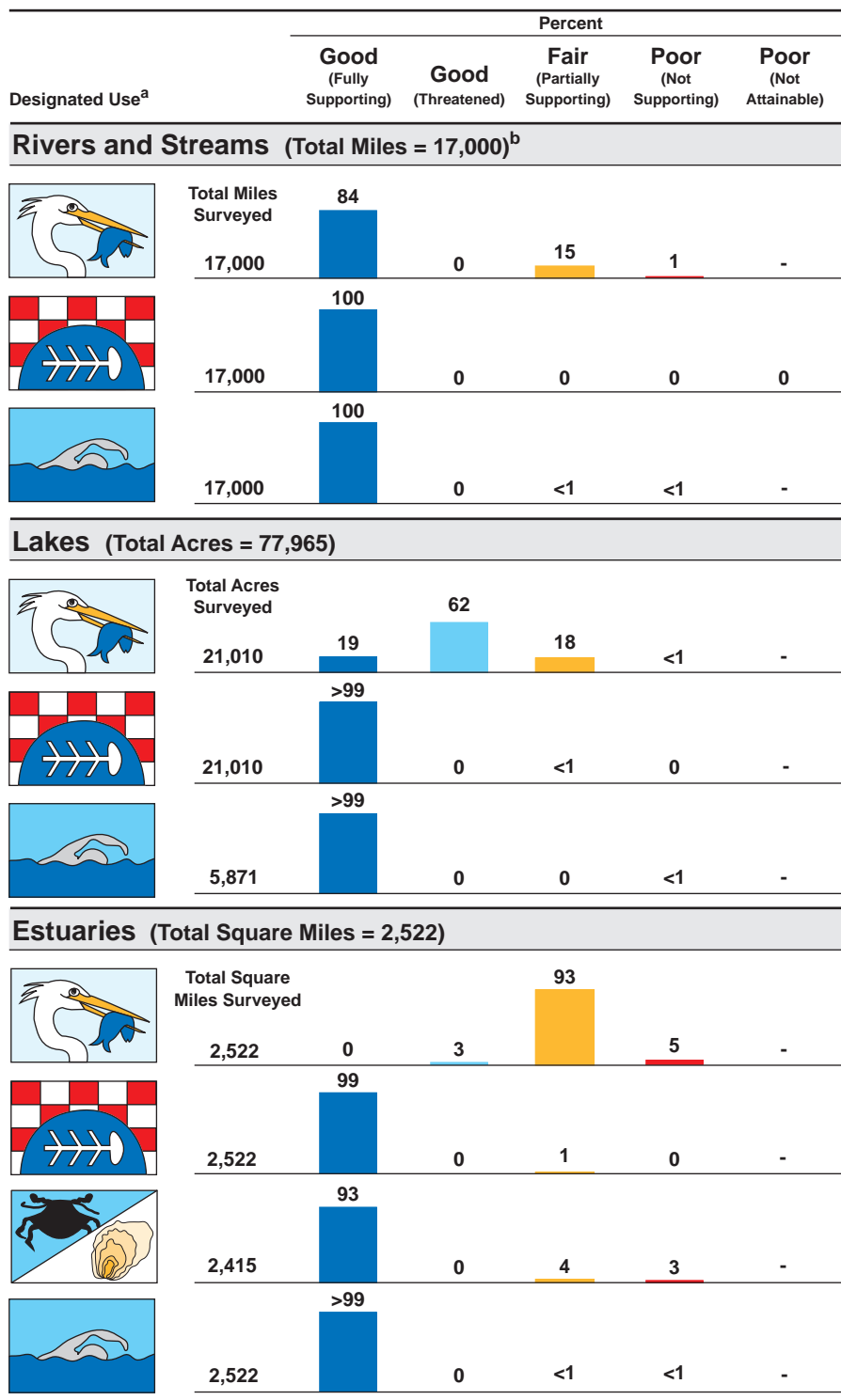
Maryland's monitoring programs include a combination of water chemistry, compliance, aquatic resource, and habitat monitoring programs. In addition to traditional monitoring, Maryland also conducts an innovative randomized sampling program in Chesapeake Bay waters using a probabilistic approach to sample analysis. Besides these programs, data from local governments and volunteer groups are available in some areas of the State.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Maryland's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Maryland



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.